

CLOTHES ON HAND

Government Has \$750,000,000 in Equipment Now.

Millions of Articles in Stores Here and Abroad.

PLENTY OF STUFF IS IN FRANCE

Nearly Four Million Shoes Alone Are Now Overseas.

More Overseas Caps Than Service Hats in Stock.

Figures recently made public by the government, prepared under the supervision of Aaron Rachofsky, representing the secretary of war, shows the amount of clothing and equipment on hand in the United States and in France, exclusive of that in the possession of troops. The total represents stock on hand as of November 1, and is very carefully presented and elaborate.

The report made public by the war department follows: Cotton coats, 8,039,907; denim coats, 5,410,518; wool coats, 6,282,536 pairs; jerseys, 2,449,000; mackinaws, 19,560; overcoats, 4,167,841; raincoats, 1,700,220; flannel shirts, 9,742,824; denim trousers, 5,215,708; cotton trousers and breeches, 8,572,293; wool trousers and breeches, 8,581,823.

Summer drawers, 24,285,815; winter drawers, 21,050,798; summer undershirts, 27,053,892; winter undershirts, 17,427,280; rubber hip boots, 1,271,135 pairs; rubber knee boots, 859,211 pairs; canvas leggings, 7,288,419 pairs; arctic leggings, 4,018,894; wool spiral puttees, 5,586,830; russet marching shoes, 3,548,650 pairs; well field shoes, 3,314,783 pairs; moccasins, 10,688,130 yards; 30 and 32 ounce Melton, 3,424,892 yards, and flannel for shirts, 9,192,372.

Equipment in France exclusive of that in the hands of troops, November 1, is as follows:

Flannel shirts, 8,000,000; heavy wool socks, 8,500,000; light wool socks, 4,500,000; wool gloves, 7,500,000; jerseys, 1,500,000; overcoats, 800,000; wool service coats, 2,100,000; wool trousers, 1,750,000; field shoes, 3,500,000; leather gloves, 400,000; wool gloves, 2,750,000; leather mittens, 600,000; a conservative estimate of the value of this equipment based on contract prices is, in round figures, \$75,000,000. This estimate has been arrived at after a thorough review of contract prices and is believed to be as accurate as can be determined at the present time.

Fairmount Officers' School.

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GOT FRESH MILK

Topekan Tells of Soldier Luck at the Front.

Edward W. Thompson Is With Thirty-Fifth Division.

WAS IN TWO BIG BATTLES

Tells of Taking Hill in Just Four Hours.

Wait in Little Village for Signing of Peace Terms.

Edward W. Thompson, who is with the army in France, has written to the Topeka Daily State Journal, at 1100 West Sixth street, Topeka, telling of some of his experiences at the front. He is with the Thirty-fifth division, and took part in the fighting at the Argonne forest, and other fields. He tells of taking a hill, one of the most important in the Argonne forest. The men took it in four hours, whereas the French had told them it would not fall short of 72 hours. He told of the dugouts captured behind the hill, and of the hospitals for the wounded. The letter was written on Saturday, November 24. After spending a short time at Camp Mills, Thompson went abroad, last summer. His letter is, in part, as follows:

"We landed at Liverpool, and then crossed England to Southampton by those little European cars. At Southampton we met a little, bent old man who recited to us about 'Rodney on the mud,' Southampton on the stocks, and showed us the exact location where Cromwell, in olden times, had placed his batteries and fired into the old church, where the dead are interred under tablets inscribed in Latin, there were many little holes and pieces of shot are still in the walls. We marched to Southampton and crossed the channel in the night in a fine little steamer fitted in walnut wood, and landed at La Havre. We stayed there two days in some English barracks, then took a train to France. The English had been bombing this place, especially the railroad yards, but allied flyers were keeping them so busy they didn't have time to do so.

"At this time the French were a little dubious as to what Uncle Sam's soldiers could do, but we soon showed them. We went into Alsace to get a little preliminary training for the harder fighting up north, and then the 38th division started a little rough house all its own with the Germans who had been using that sector only for resting purposes. The French moved up around Nancy and Toul, with a few steps in between for the Thirty-fifth division was held in reserve. The heaviest barrage I ever heard occurred there.

"Our division was in on the start of the Argonne drive and had some of the toughest fighting on the whole front, going up against the Third and Fifth Prussian guards, the toughest fighters the crown prince had, and several other reserve troops. At the end of six days we were without a recuperate, but we had broken through one of the strongest defensive points that the Germans had, and which they had held for a month. We took a hill by artillery fire in four hours which the French said could only be taken after seventy-two hours of steady shelling.

"On the opposite side of this hill were dugouts galore all connected with a corridor which ran almost the whole length of the hill and lit by electricity. In one place we found a cow which had not been milked yet, so half a dozen doughboys had a taste of fresh milk.

"Two days later the engineers were cleaning out and looking for mines. They set off several bombs, making guns and out came fifty or sixty Germans who had been hiding in the hill. "While we were operating the hospital at Neuville, we were overflooded with patients, but managed to take care of them all. There were several Germans in the hospital also, and almost every hour of the day squads of prisoners could be seen passing down the road.

"We have made several moves since then, and now we are in a small village waiting for peace terms to be signed."

LONGS TO BE HOME

C. A. Dodge, State Journal Pressman, Writes From France.

C. A. Dodge, of Company C 361st Infantry, writes from Longres, France, to friends in Topeka that he is at the front in east central France, after going with the army from St. Mihiel on to Argonne, and as far as Roulers, Belgium. He writes:

"I wish I was back with the old outfit going thru Germany. Maybe I shall be soon. I saw the whole show from St. Mihiel, was thru the Argonne fight, and got as far as Roulers, Belgium. I was on my way to Longres when the curtain dropped, and ten minutes after the whistle started and the world was declared safe for the Democrats. I was put in jail, but I got out the same afternoon. I have only one thought now, and that is God's country, but I don't know when I may embark."

Before joining the army, Dodge was a pressman for the Topeka State Journal.

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Local News Events of the Past Week

As Depicted By Bolmar

SUNDAY. MONDAY. TUESDAY. WEDNESDAY.



Negro imitation gun men staged little scene at a gasoline supply station. Red Cross dollar membership campaign started off with snap and vigor. The tree as a civic beautifier extolled at state horticultural meeting. Petitions of two new banks for charters, turned down by state board.

THURSDAY. FRIDAY. SATURDAY. FORECAST.



Topeka insurance man given good job by insurance commission-elect. Biby prepared list of pretty saleswomen for Red Cross activities. Tom Doran's turkey shoot one of the chief events of the week. Next Wednesday the day that makes happy kiddies and empty purses.

IN WINE COUNTRY

Shawnee Boy Writes of Way They Make It in France.

Thomas L. Crawford Sends Interesting Letter Home.

VISITED FAMOUS OLD CASTLES

He Saw 14,000 Wounded Americans in Paris.

Shell Shock Victims Are the Most Pitiful of All.

Thomas L. Crawford of the United States naval aviation forces, has written to his mother, Mrs. G. W. Crawford, of Route 1, Topeka, from his present station in London. He tells of visiting a famous wine center of France, some ancient feudal castles, including the storied castle of Bluebeard. He writes also of the efficiency of the Americans in handling their engine and materials, and he includes in his letter a paragraph concerning his visit to a base hospital in which 14,000 wounded men were placed.

Crawford's letter is, in part, as follows:

"I first landed in France in the heart of the wine district. The wine is made in a dirty and crude way. In the cellars of the chateaux are thousands of bottles of wine that have been stored for from ten to twenty years. After grapes are gathered they are thrown into a press, a big wooden block is thrown down on top of them and is tightened until all the juice is drained off. Around the bottom of the press is a trough, and the juice is drained off in buckets.

"Black Prince's Castle.

"On my way to Bordeaux I stopped to see the ruins of the castle of the Black Prince, famous in French feudal history. We passed one church which was built in the thirteenth century. I went thru many dungeons where it is said Bluebeard kept his wives shut up.

"I visited St. Nazaire, a great port for Americans. There thousands of tons of supplies are landed by our ships. At Savoy I found 60 miles of American warehouses. The French think the Americans are wonderful in their efficiency. I saw one poor chap with a large hole completely thru the larger part of his leg. Another had his knee badly cut by shrapnel, and the rest of his leg was withering away. I did not recognize anyone but met several lads from Kansas. They were all glad to see me. One of the lads had a paragraph in some issue of the American in hospital in that they may reach home and their loved ones.

"The most pitiful cases were those of shell shock. Many of them have completely lost their sense of control. Some are unable to talk without stuttering, and some have lost their voice. In some cases the lads can never be helped. They are a sorrowful looking lot, although nine out of every ten men wear a smile. They want to talk to a visitor, but when they try to do so they become nervous and so completely to pieces, being unable to do anything more than stutter and mumble and shake from head to foot. I saw one poor lad who was continually walking the floor, jumping at times, shaking his fist, and throwing his head backward. He was afraid of me at first, but before I left the ward, he had decided to 'beat up' on me. This hospital has wonderful conveniences for its patients. No country in the world has cared for its men as America has. Red Cross trains carrying hundreds of wounded come into this hospital every day. The Red Cross cars are hospitals on wheels. The coaches are elaborately fitted out. In the center of the car is a dispensary, and on either side are arranged the berths. Each coach carries thirty-six men. The berths are in rows of three decks. The coaches are long and easy riders. The French and British have nothing to equal them.

To Build High Tower.

"Paris has wide streets, in contrast to other French cities, and the buildings are of somewhat uniform architecture and height. The many parks are filled with monuments and statues. The Eiffel tower, built as a monument to the science of engineering, and the highest steeple in the world, is one of the most famous landmarks of the city. The United States is erecting 'somewhere.'

"The art treasures have been taken from the Louvre and deposited in a place of greater safety. On account of the air raids many of the treasured monuments have been covered with sand bags. The French in such a splendid plan.

"Everyone is interested in the outcome of negotiations for an armistice, and the officers and men are all getting tired of waiting. The French in such a splendid plan.

To Raise Ban At Atchison.

Atchison, Kan., Dec. 21.—Atchison's second flu ban will be raised today. After a campaign of public gatherings three weeks.

Few new cases have been reported during the last few days and it is believed the epidemic is under control.

A German U-boat sailor interned in the United States received a letter from his wife saying that she was praying her husband could not be eaten up by Indians or hanged by cowboys with lasso tops. She said: "If he should wish to escape you, you would have to let him go the king of America. He is also an Indian!"

At Big Base Hospital.

"I have recently visited a large American base hospital near Paris. It contains 14,000 wounded men. Two hospital units have been combined there. Men from all parts of the United States were lying there sick with all kinds of diseases and afflicted with every kind of ailment. I saw one poor chap with a large hole completely thru the larger part of his leg. Another had his knee badly cut by shrapnel, and the rest of his leg was withering away. I did not recognize anyone but met several lads from Kansas. They were all glad to see me. One of the lads had a paragraph in some issue of the American in hospital in that they may reach home and their loved ones.

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TO SPEND \$75,000

City Will Build Many Bridges During Next Year.

Plans Have Already Been Made by W. G. Tandy.

HE HAS MONEY ON HAND NOW

\$45,000 Left in Treasury From Last Year's Levy.

New Spans Will All Be of Reinforced Concrete.

The city of Topeka will have \$75,000 for expenditure in the building of bridges during the next year, according to Commissioner W. G. Tandy. Of this amount, \$45,000 was left from last year's levy, part of which was a small amount left from the year before. From this year's levy there will be a sum amounting to \$30,000. About six years ago a movement was started by Commissioner W. G. Tandy which resulted in the state legislature passing laws providing for the levy of a one-half mill tax for building bridges. The money on last summer's levy is being paid in now at the office of the city treasurer. Half of the amount, \$30,000, will become available practically at once but the other half will not be paid in until the last half of the taxes is paid during the coming June. These amounts come to a total of \$75,000 which may be used in this field of civic improvement.

Owing to the government building restrictions which were in force during the last year no construction of this character was possible although plans were made for the construction of several new bridges. Now these restrictions are no longer in force and Tandy intends to proceed with the letting of contracts and to get the work started as soon as possible.

Five Shunganunga Spans.

Across the Shunganunga creek there are now five bridges that have been constructed during Tandy's administration of the department of streets and public improvements. The bridges are situated on Lincoln street, Kansas avenue, Tenth street, Fifteenth street and Sixth street. They are all constructed along practically the same plans: all reinforced concrete arches. The average cost of these bridges has been \$20,000.

Several months ago plans were made and the contract let for the construction of a similar bridge across the Shunganunga on East Fourth street.

New Bridge Location.

The places where three bridges will be located are at Seventh street, Lake street and on Davis street. The bridge across the Shunganunga at Davis street will be another location in which the county and the city will co-operate in the erection of this permanent improvement. Tandy says that the city is ready to go ahead with its half of this job as soon as the county is ready.

While ordinarily, construction work of this nature is not undertaken in the winter, according to Commissioner Tandy, this winter has been so free and open, thus far, that the bridge program could have been made in excavating for the placing of concrete foundations. Although the pouring of concrete for curbs and smaller jobs cannot be undertaken in cold weather, large concrete pouring jobs such as the building of the large foundations and basins may be undertaken only if it does not become decidedly cold.

The city is ready to begin on this work at any time and Tandy intends to make an effort to get it started at once.